

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HONG K 12814 291042Z

44

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 STR-04 /057 W

----- 044908

R 290312Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7731

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

UNCLAS HONG KONG 12814

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: REPORTED 1980 PRC GRAIN TARGET OF 400 MILLION TONS

REF: HK 12581

1. AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE OCTOBER 22 ISSUE OF TA KUNG PAO, ONE OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS, HAS REPORTED A PRC GRAIN TARGET OF 400 MILLION TONS BY 1980. (HK 12581). WRITTEN BY A LOCAL STAFFER, THE ARTICLE REPEATED A REPORT CARRIED THE DAY BEFORE IN A TA KUNG PAO DAILY COMMENTARY THAT POLITBURO MEMBER YAO WEN-YUAN -MENTIONED" THE TARGET AT A MEETING WITH A VISITING JAPANESE DELEGATION OCTOBER 6 IN PEKING.

2. THE TA KUNG PAO ARTICLE ESTIMATED THAT GRAIN PRODUCTION IN 1975 "COULD" REACH 275 MILLION TONS OR MORE. USING THIS FIGURE AS A BASE, THE ARTICLE CALCULATED THAT TO REACH 400 MILLION TONS WOULD REQUIRE AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 45 PERCENT, OR 7.8 PERCENT A YEAR FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (I.E., DOUBLE THE GROWTH RATE OF THE LAST 25 YEARS). OUTPUT WOULD THEN BE EQUIVALENT, THE ARTICLE STATED, TO PRODUCTION OF ABOUT 1000 CATTIES PER CAPITA.

3. COMMENT: A 1980 TARGET OF 400 MILLION TONS WOULD FAR EXCEED CURRENT ESTIMATES OF PRC AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL. EVEN IF YAO ACTUALLY MADE THE STATEMENT, HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 HONG K 12814 291042Z

THAT THE ROLE OF SUCH A TARGET WOULD BE MORE IN LINE WITH

AN EASY-TO-REMEMBER INSPIRATIONAL GOAL FOR MASS EXHORTATION  
RATHER THAN AS A BASIS FOR ACTUAL PLANNING TARGETS. IN  
THIS SENSE IT MAY BEAR MORE THAN A SUPERFICIAL RESEMBLANCE  
TO THE 12 YEAR GRAIN TARGETS OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF 1956, WHICH HAVE SO FAR BEEN MET  
BY ONLY FIVE PROVINCES. THESE WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN EQUIVA-  
LENT TO PRODUCTION OF ABOUT 1000 CATTIES PER CAPITA (SEE  
VICE PREMIER TAN CHEN-LIN'S REPORT ON THE PROGRAM FOR  
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN CURRENT BACKGROUND NO. 616,  
APRIL 20, 1960).  
CROSS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, GRAINS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975HONGK12814  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750374-0965  
**From:** HONG KONG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751011/aaaaajcu.tel  
**Line Count:** 72  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AGR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchant0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 OCT 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 OCT 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2004 by buchant0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTED 1980 PRC GRAIN TARGET OF 400 MILLION TONS  
**TAGS:** EAGR, CH, TA KUNG PAO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006